

# IRC ALERT

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## FOCUS: Independent and Responsible Media

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"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, elegant in its simplicity, enshrines one of the most basic beliefs of the United States: the importance of the press in nurturing democratic government by allowing a forum for free speech. In the United States and throughout much of the world, a free press is recognized as an essential element of democracy, a means to empower the citizenry and to ensure governments remain accountable to the governed.

A fundamental axiom of democracy is that citizens must have information and knowledge. People must be informed if they are to play an active role in the life of their country. Free and responsible media are critical sources of information for citizens who want to choose the best leaders for their country and make sound decisions about the issues in their nation and in their individual communities. The information the media provide is just as critical for intelligent economic and personal decisions as for good political choices. There is a strong relationship between open media and free and effective economies. In fact, studies conducted by the World Bank have shown that free media are essential for successful economic progress in developing countries. It has long been the policy of the U.S. government to support the development of open and responsible media abroad and to assist in building the infrastructure needed for a free press to operate -- legislative infrastructure, financial independence, transparency in government, and journalists trained in objective and fair reporting. Achieving a free and responsible media is a constant, challenging, vital, and ongoing activity. We must continue to work at it, adapting to new conditions and challenges. We must keep in sight the ultimate objective -- a citizenry able to make informed decisions that shape their lives.

Independent media around the world have emerged as some of the most powerful forces in the struggle to change closed, repressive regimes into open and productive societies. The move towards democracy and free markets is being carried out in earnest across the globe, especially since the end of the Cold War, but the outcome is not at all predictable as dark forces emerge after surviving for decades under the mask of repression. Racists, terrorists, ethnic tribalists, criminal syndicates, drug gangs, and political strongmen have emerged or reemerged in too many countries. They test whether the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union and the developing nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America will adopt democratic, representative forms of government that provide education, health, security, opportunity, and a sound economy promoting investment and trade.

In the midst of this struggle, the United States attempts to help these countries move toward democracy by helping in the formation, training, and protection of free and independent newspapers, radio, and television. We believe independent media can be helped to carry out two major roles: being a "watchdog" over government and educating people about the issues that affect their lives.

Two hundred years ago, President Thomas Jefferson said it best: "The only security of all is in a free press." In 1823 Jefferson said: "The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary, to keep the waters pure."

## FOCUS — Articles and Reports

### 3-1/FOC

#### **ABOUT AMERICA Edward R. Murrow: Journalism at its Best**

**April 2006.**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/murrow/murrow.pdf>

Edward R. Murrow's ardent belief in American democracy, his courage and perseverance in searching for and reporting the truth, and his dedication to journalism as an essential tool in the democratic political process still are cherished and nurtured by many institutions. These values are also reflected in awards and programs that honor this great reporter throughout the United States and overseas. Murrow was an innovator, but he also knew he was working in a commercial medium that required a large audience. He was always searching for new techniques to grab and hold the public's attention. Murrow would have regarded the narrowcasting of today made possible by cable, satellite, the Internet, and portable devices as an immense opportunity.

### 3-2/FOC

#### **FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

**By Ellen Hume**

**Foundations of Democracy, eJournal USA**

**Vol. 10, No. 2 December 2005**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1205/ijde/hume.htm>

An independent media sector ensures the free flow of information that is vital in a democratic society. Using examples from many nations, the author outlines four essential roles that a free press serves: holding government leaders accountable to the people, publicizing issues that need attention, educating citizens so they can make informed decisions, and connecting people with each other in civil society.

### 3-3/FOC

#### **INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ON RADIO: Brilliant sparks promising**

**By Amanda Buck**

**Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. The IRE Journal, Jul/Aug 2005, Vol. 28, No. 4, pp. 14-16.**

Buck shares some of the thoughts of investigative

journalists like Stephen Smith, managing editor of Minnesota-based American RadioWorks. Smith has been in public radio for more than two decades and has reported and produced award-winning investigative documentaries all over the world. Among other things, he talks about the promising future of investigative reporting in public radio.

### 3-4/FOC

#### **THE MEDIA WE DESERVE**

**By Mark Blitz**

**Public Interest, Spring 2005, No. 159, pp. 125-40.**

Politically responsible journalism means asking: What does a practically intelligent legislator or executive who is engaged in deliberation about ways and means - not a curious gossip - need to know? By seeing things from the public-spirited point of view, the media would go a long way toward ameliorating many of its more harmful excesses. The most politically responsible in the media, those who establish this horizon of public responsibility, will also stand a good chance of being financially responsible, because they will win and hold an influential audience. Anyone is free to join their ranks, or to expose their partisanship masquerading as responsibility, or to compete by being politically one-sided. Still others can follow their lead by addressing important political stories to the most thoughtful in their standard audience, in this way elevating their entire audience. Competition is crucial, of course. But unless certain media institutions take it upon themselves to be politically responsible, our public life will be diminished.

### 3-5/FOC

#### **Media Emerging**

**eJournal USA**

**U.S. Department of State, March 2006**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0306/ijge/ijge0306.htm>

Innovation in information technology breeds a generation of new, upstart media, and citizens gain the means to disseminate their own ideas and opinions. Experts describe how the trends change the media marketplace with special features on blogging, Internet law enforcement, and an interview with a newspaperman at the forefront of the citizen journalism movement. This innovation in information technologies has thrust the world into an era of democratic media in which people have access to news and information unbound from traditional barriers of time and geography. It gives rise to new media formats with new models for information distribution, consumption, and use. Traditional lines between the audience and media institutions are crossed as citizens gain access to platforms from which to express their own ideas and opinions, circumventing media corporations and governments, the long-standing

gatekeepers of information.

### 3-6/FOC

#### **THE MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF JOURNALISTS: A Comparison With Other Professions And A Model For Predicting High Quality Ethical Reasoning**

By Renita Coleman, Lee Wilkins

Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly,

Autumn 2004, Vol. 81, No. 3, pp. 511-527.

This study gathered baseline data on the moral development of 249 professional journalists. Journalists scored fourth highest among professionals tested, ranking behind seminarians/philosophers, medical students, and physicians, but above dental students, nurses, graduate students, undergraduate college students, veterinary students, and adults in general. No significant differences were found between various groups of journalists, including men and women, and broadcast and print journalists; journalists who did civic journalism or investigative reporting scored significantly higher than those who did not. A regression analysis points to five factors predictive of higher moral development in journalists-doing investigative journalism, a high degree of choice at work, moderate religiosity, a strong internal sense of right and wrong, and viewing rules and law as less important than other factors.

### 3-7/FOC

#### **THE STATE OF THE NEWS MEDIA 2005: An Annual Report on American Journalism** **Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.** **Web-posted January 2006.**

<http://www.stateofthemedias.org/2005/execsum.pdf>

Funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, this report provides a comprehensive look at the state of American journalism, and the pressing issues facing the news media in 2005. The authors' goal is to put in one place as much original and aggregated data as possible about each of the major journalism sectors -- newspapers, magazines, network television, cable television, local television, the Internet, radio, ethnic and alternative media. For each of the media sectors, they examine six different areas - content, audience trends, economics, ownership, newsroom investment, and public attitudes.

### 3-8/FOC

#### **WATCHDOG JOURNALISM WORTH TIME, MONEY AND MANPOWER**

By Tim Nostrand

Investigative Reporters and Editors, The IRE Journal, May/Jun 2006, Vol. 29, No. 3, pg. 11.

As is the case with all good watchdog journalism, Toxic

Legacy, a five-part series on the continuing environmental havoc wrought by a long-closed Ford Motor Co assembly plant, posed special challenges for its editors. It took big-time commitment to manpower and solid organizational structure to keep everyone from tripping each other and to ensure that all the bases were covered. Toxic Legacy" took a lot of time, resources, and creativity. But that comes with the turf with good watchdog journalism. Telling it right is the right thing to do.

## **FOCUS—Internet Sites**

The U.S. Embassy assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed below. All links were active as of June 2006.

### **American Press Institute**

<http://www.americanpressinstitute.org/>

### **American Society of Newspaper Editors**

<http://www.asne.org/>

### **Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School**

<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/home/>

### **Electronic Frontier Foundation**

<http://www.eff.org/>

### **Internet Crime Complaint Center**

<http://www.ic3.gov/>

### **MSNBC TV Citizen Journalists Report**

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6639760>

### **National Association of Broadcasters**

<http://www.nab.org/>

### **National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting**

<http://www.nicar.org/>

### **National Native News**

<http://www.nativenews.net/>

### **National Newspaper Association**

<http://www.nna.org/>

### **New American Media**

<http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/>

### **NewsLab**

<http://www.newslab.org/index.htm>

### **NPR Podcast Directory**

[http://www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast\\_directory.php](http://www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast_directory.php)

### **Online News Association**

<http://www.journalists.org>

#### **Open Content Alliance**

<http://www.opencontentalliance.org/>

#### **Open Directory Project: Weblogs**

[http://dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/On\\_the\\_Web/Weblogs/](http://dmoz.org/Computers/Internet/On_the_Web/Weblogs/)

#### **Poynter Online**

11 Layers of Citizen Journalism

[http://www.poynter.org/content/content\\_view.asp?id=83126](http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=83126)

#### **Radio-Television News Directors Association**

<http://www.rtnda.org>

#### **The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press**

<http://www.rcfp.org>

#### **Wikipedia**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

#### **Youth Radio**

<http://www.youthradio.org/index.shtml>

## **INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

### **3-9/IS**

#### **ATTACKING AGRICULTURE WITH RADIOLOGICAL MATERIALS - A POSSIBILITY?**

**By Shannon Michel Allan and Peter Leitner**

**World Affairs, Vol. 168, No. 3, Winter 2006, pp. 99-112.**

The authors disagree with the conventional wisdom that terrorists planning a radiological attack would exclusively target urban population centers instead of rural agricultural targets. Allan and Leitner argue that dispersing radiological agents into the food supply is possible, considering the history of such attacks, the relative ease of procuring radiological agents on the open market, as well as terrorists' preference to maximize the symbolic nature, psychological impact, and elements of surprise of their attacks. Given the potential impacts of food contamination on the public, the domestic and international economy, U.S. humanitarian aid, even America's allies who may face further attacks, the authors agree that radiological attacks on agriculture is a risk that we ignore at our peril.

### **3-10/IS**

#### **ELECTORAL SYSTEMS TODAY: A Global Snapshot**

**By Richard W. Soudriette and Andrew Ellis**

**Journal of Democracy, Vol. 17, No. 2, April 2006, pp. 78-88.**

A wide variety of electoral systems is used around the world, but in recent years the trend has been toward systems based upon greater proportionality. Designing an electoral system is an easily identifiable, fundamental step in building a sustainable democracy. When thinking about electoral systems design it is imperative to consider a country's historical, cultural, and sociological traditions and characteristics. Systems that work well in one country at one time may not do so in another country or even in the same country at another time. Developing countries that inherited the electoral model of their colonial masters, sometimes without debate, may not have the electoral systems that best serve their needs.

### **3-11/IS**

#### **GETTING INDIA RIGHT**

**By Parag Khanna and C. Raja Mohan**

**Policy Review, No. 135, February/March 2006, pp. 43-61.**

The authors highlight the possible benefits and regional and global complications that a blossoming U.S.-India relationship portends. They sketch India's transition from nonalignment to proponent of "democracy promotion, secular governance, pluralism, and the rule of law" with the United States. The authors briefly illuminate the interlocking factors by which China, India and the United States must calculate their attitudes and approaches toward each other. They also see the United States causing problems in South Asia by giving Pakistan too much military aid, and not receiving much assistance in return on nonproliferation and counterterrorism. They also touch on India's demographic advantage over China and the economic success of Indian-Americans.

### **3-12/IS**

#### **INDIA AND THE BALANCE OF POWER**

**By C. Raja Mohan**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 4, Jul/Aug 2006, pp. 17+**

The world started to take notice of India's rise when New Delhi signed a nuclear pact with President George W. Bush in July 2005, but that breakthrough is only one dimension of the dramatic transformation of Indian foreign policy that has taken place since the end of the Cold War. After more than a half century of false starts and unrealized potential, India is now emerging as the swing state in the global balance of power. In the coming years, it will have an opportunity to shape outcomes on the most critical issues of the twenty-first century: the construction of Asian stability, the political modernization of the greater Middle East, and the management of globalization. India is arriving on the world stage as the first large, economically powerful, culturally vibrant, multiethnic, multireligious democracy outside of the geographic West. As it rises, India has the potential to

become a leading member of the "political West" and to play a key role in the great political struggles of the next decades. Whether it will, and how soon, depends above all on the readiness of the Western powers to engage India on its own terms.

**3-13/IS**

**SEIZING THE MOMENT IN KASHMIR**

**By Cyrus Samii**

**SAIS Review, Winter 2006, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 65-79.**

A devastating earthquake on Oct. 8, 2005 drew the world's attention to the disputed South Asian border region of Jammu and Kashmir. Despite the tragedy, there was some cause for hope. Perhaps it would shift priorities and actually help to bring peace to Jammu and Kashmir, a land subjected to decades of contention and host to more than 16 years of insurgency? Unfortunately, promise has a way of fading quickly, and bitterly, in the Kashmir conflict. Misrule, miscalculation, and fear have conspired repeatedly to restore the "war status quo." Unless these factors-the sources of the conflict's intractability-are addressed, it is difficult to be optimistic. To help bring about a positive dynamic in which these issues can be addressed, parties to the conflict and international actors should continue toward realizing a "soft border" and improving the economic situation on both sides of the Line of Control.

**3-14/IS**

**TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND U.S. GRAND STRATEGY**

**By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 4, July/August 2006, pp. 139+**

Bush's bid for a legacy of transformation rests on the three major changes he made to U.S. grand strategy after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001: reducing Washington's reliance on permanent alliances and international institutions, expanding the traditional right of preemption into a new doctrine of preventive war, and advocating coercive democratization as a solution to Middle Eastern terrorism. Those changes, codified in the 2002 National Security Strategy, were widely understood as revolutionary at the time. Transformation in this regard is more than ordinary adaptation; it implies a major alteration of U.S. grand strategy.

**3-15/IS**

**UNIVERSAL VALUES, SPECIFIC POLICIES**

**By Henry Kissinger**

**National Interest, No. 84, Summer 2006, pp. 13-15.**

There are those who assert that the world "changed" after 9/11; that the international system of the 21st

century is defined less by nation-states and increasingly by new elements-substate actors, transnational movements and so on-the implication being that the U.S. experience of the Cold War era is increasingly becoming irrelevant as a guide for formulating foreign policy today. Kissinger's assessment is that "different parts of the world are at different stages in their internal development and at different stages in the structure of the units that are composing it. Our convictions about what we are trying to achieve should be constant, but their application has to be adjusted to specific conditions in different regions."

## DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**3-16/DHR**

**DEMOCRACY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN CROSS-NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE: From Crime Control To Due Process**

**By Hung-En Sung**

**Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Vol. 605, May 2006, pp. 311-337.**

The author, with the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, states that the evolution of justice administration in democratizing countries is moving from control of crime to the advancement of due process. People respect and cooperate more with the justice system if they believe that their rights are protected throughout the due process. Furthermore, according to Sung, the transformation "from an authoritarian criminal justice system to a democratic one is cumulative but not inevitable, and the financial cost of creating and sustaining such a capable system would overwhelm many poor countries and take many years to develop fully." Therefore, economic standing of the government and its willingness to support the justice system's due process will also determine the pace of its democratization.

**3-17/DHR**

**THE FAILED STATES INDEX**

**Foreign Policy, No. 154, May/June 2006, pp. 50-58.**

The staff of Foreign Policy magazine and the Fund for Peace present the second annual Failed States Index, noting that 2005 should have been a good year for developing states around the world, yet "trends that should have been boons for stability have often been busts." They emphasize that there are few quick fixes -- elections do not ensure effective governance, and high commodity prices don't necessarily build strong institutions. Nation-building by outsiders is time-consuming and costly, and while there have been a few

successes, most countries will be on their own. They note that it is impossible to predict which countries may implode, but "it is essential for policymakers to understand the vulnerabilities and weaknesses that create the conditions for state failure." As with last year's index, the authors ranked 148 countries by twelve indicators; the sixty most vulnerable states are published in the journal, and full results are available online at [www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com) and [www.fundforpeace.org](http://www.fundforpeace.org).

### **3-18/DHR**

#### **THE FIRST LAW OF PETROPOLITICS**

**By Thomas L. Friedman**

**Foreign Policy, No. 154, May/June 2006, pp. 28-36.**

The author, a New York Times columnist, asserts that there is a strong inverse correlation between the price of crude oil and the level of freedoms in oil-producing countries. Friedman maps out the political and economic histories of nations he defines as "petrolist" states, countries with weak institutions where oil production accounts for the majority of GNP. As the price of crude oil rises, civil rights and democracy are eroded; these nations are flooded with so much oil revenue that the leadership can ignore the views of its citizens and foreign bodies with no economic consequences. In contrast, as oil dries up, nations move toward democracy and capitalism to diversify the economy and foster trade, as has been the case in Bahrain. Friedman concludes that oil-dependent nations need to seek alternative fuels not purely for environmental reasons, but also as a way to advance democracy and national security.

### **3-19/DHR**

#### **MEASURING PUBLIC INTEGRITY**

**By Marianne Camerer**

**Journal of Democracy, January 2006, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 152-166.**

Camerer stresses that democratic states must govern not only democratically but effectively as well if they are to endure, reliably uphold law-based rule, safeguard human rights, and offer their citizens reasonable opportunities for betterment. A deepening sense of this truth helps to explain why the concept of good governance has now become a major, publicly embraced concern of so many lenders, donors, international organizations, and governments, including the 191 member states of the UN, who at the 2005 UN World Summit reaffirmed their commitment to the Millennium Declaration and its eight bold Millennium Development Goals regarding the promotion of democracy, human rights, good governance, and improved global security.

### **3-20/DHR**

#### **RELIGION AND THE STATE**

**By Amitai Etzioni**

**Harvard International Review, Vol. 28, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 14-18.**

The case of religious education in the Islamic world suggests that the U.S. should actively promote religion overseas, albeit not in any and every form. The U.S. is involved in changing schooling in several Islamic countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The key task is determining which, if any, values ought to be part of public education and what kind of society educators should seek to advance -- one that promotes secularism, in which religion is relegated to the private sphere; one that promotes moderate but not fundamentalist religion; or one that promotes whatever form of religion the community favors, even if it is extremist. Moderate religious teachings not only are compatible with free societies but also provide a major source of the informal moral codes for countries that do not yet have them. Thus the US should promote moderate religious teaching in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

### **3-21/DHR**

#### **THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY**

**By Irving Louis Horowitz**

**National Interest, No. 83, Spring 2006, pp. 114-120.**

Horowitz laments that even though America has "a zeal for spreading democracy," there is no consensus when it comes to defining the term "democracy". He looks at several views, starting with that of Robert A. Dahl of Yale University, who believes in taking democracy to universal level through legislation and education, rather than limiting to a nationalist stand. James Gibson of Washington University sees achieving democracy in increments, in a slowly developing process. There were others who saw democracy as "distributive justice," and emphasized a socialist approach to establishing foundation for democracy. According to Horowitz, none of these are perfect, however, success lies in balancing the ideals with reality.

## **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

### **3-22/ES**

#### **DOES FOREIGN AID HELP?**

**By Simeon Djankov and Others**

**Cato Journal, Vol. 26, No. 1, Winter 2006, pp. 1-28.**

The authors believe that foreign aid has a negative impact on the democratic stance of developing countries,

and on economic growth, by reducing investment, increasing government consumption, and reducing the level of democracy of the recipient countries. Alternatives exist, for example, in the manner in which aid is disbursed. However, there is very little documented evidence on the effectiveness of foreign aid that aid has much of an impact on economic development. Loans induce a more effective use of the funds because they have to be returned while remittances and private assistance have also proven to be positive steps in fostering growth and investment, but the increasing number of participants to the aid market and the potentially conflicting goals of donors further contributes to the ineffectiveness of aid. They note that the effectiveness of foreign aid can be improved by increasing the responsibility of recipient countries, reducing the cost of remittances to developing countries, and improving the coordination of donors.

**3-23/ES**

**THE GLOBALIZERS IN SEARCH OF A FUTURE: Four Reasons Why The IMF and World Bank Must Change, and Four Ways They Can**  
By Ngaire Woods  
CGD Brief, April 2006, 6p.

Woods, a member of the Center for Global Development's Advisory Group, says the IMF and World Bank are being assailed for lacking legitimacy, independence and effectiveness. He elaborates on four main reasons these institutions need to change. First, their income is running out because they are over-reliant on the big borrowers who have largely paid off their loans; secondly, their traditional client countries are turning elsewhere because they see the IMF and World Bank as manipulative tools of the U.S. and Europe. Additionally, their use of conditionality has failed, however they have not found a new mechanism for managing loans; and they are also seen as being incapable of providing impartial policy advice since they answer to powerful countries first rather than to the borrowers. Nevertheless, Woods writes, the IMF and World Bank can ensure their future relevance if their reforms accomplish deep changes such as focusing on the borrowers, contributing to rather than hijacking a country's policy debates, involving borrowers in decision-making, and focusing on roles for which they have a unique capacity.

**3-24/ES**

**THE HIDDEN KEY TO GROWTH**  
By Martin and Others  
The International Economy, Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter 2006, pp. 48-55.

The authors, from the McKinsey Global Institute, say dynamic, competitive local services can unlock a huge

contribution to GDP growth and employment. While import substitution, export manufacturing and services for export have all captured policymakers' imaginations, local services are being overlooked, they write. Local services account for more than sixty percent of all jobs in middle-income and developed economies, and virtually all of new job creations, they write. Policymakers who want to leverage the economic power of local services growth need to ensure barriers to competition are removed and service companies are treated equally with manufacturing firms. The authors highlight the positive relationship between the local service sector and employment, and provide recommendations.

**3-25/ES**

**THE LONG WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION**  
By Ben W. Heineman and Fritz Heimann  
Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 3, May/June 2006, pp. 75-86.

Since the mid-1990s, corruption has become an important issue on the global agenda. Its key agents -- developed and developing countries, international organizations, and multinational corporations -- must do more to prevent and to punish misbehavior systematically, say the authors. Bribery and corruption, they explain, distorts markets and competition, breeds cynicism among citizens, undermines the rule of law, damages government legitimacy, and corrodes the integrity of the private sector. Some international organizations have adopted conventions that require their members to enact laws that prohibit bribery and corruption. However, during the past decade, many public- and private-sector organizations have paid minimal lip service to the idea that fighting corruption is in their own best interest and for the global good. To counter this, several international treaties have been adopted to fill gaps in existing national anticorruption laws, including an OECD convention that applies to industrialized countries; three regional conventions covering Europe, the Americas, and Africa; and the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

**3-26/ES**

**POCKETBOOK POLICING**  
By Christian Caryl  
Newsweek, International Edition, April 10, 2006.

The author writes that the U.S. is going after North Korea's sources of illicit cash worldwide, and the efforts are putting serious pressure on the regime. An intense three-year effort by numerous U.S. government agencies has resulted in the confiscation of some \$48 million in fake \$100 bills and effectively curtailed North Korea's dealings with international financial institutions, he notes. For example, a warning from the U.S. Treasury that designated a Chinese bank as a "primary money



laundering concern" for North Korea, brought on a run on the bank, which subsequently cut all its ties with Pyongyang and froze nearly 50 accounts linked to North Korean companies and institutions. Other banks around the world have also begun to cut ties with North Korea for fear of similar U.S. actions. In February a North Korean spokesman complained that the U.S. had effectively banned North Korea from having normal international financial transactions, and recently Pyongyang has claimed that it, too, has been a "victim" of counterfeiting and promised to punish any North Koreans involved! Fears that North Korea may collapse are worrisome to its neighbors, he writes, but the U.S. insists it is simply trying to force the regime to give up its nuclear program rather than foment regime change.

**3-27/ES**

### **TODAY'S GOLDEN AGE OF POVERTY REDUCTION**

**By Surjit S. Bhalla**

**The International Economy, Vol. 20, No. 2, Spring 2006, pp. 22+**

Bhalla, an Indian economist, says the claims that globalization increases poverty and inequality is simply false. In the last twenty years, over a billion people have moved out of poverty, he notes. And, he adds, poverty as a share of population has decreased by approximately 4 percent every twenty years from 1820 to 1950; 14 percent to 1980; and an astonishing 20 percent since 1980. The increases in poverty that organizations like the World Bank report are based purely on the number of poor, he explains, so while increased population does mean more poor, the numbers fail to reflect the even larger increase in number of people who have moved out of poverty. History has proven that economic liberalization leads to production efficiency, which leads to economic growth, which leads people out of poverty, Bhalla asserts. He also suggests that poverty reduction has been so successful that it is time to move the absolute poverty line to about two dollars a day.

**3-28/ES**

### **REBUILDING LIVES: The Aftermath of the South Asia Earthquake**

**By Jim Stipe**

**Journal of International Affairs, Spring 2006, Vol. 59, 2, pp. 298-314.**

In terms of lasting impact, the earthquake in northern Pakistan and India is perhaps the largest natural disaster in modern history. Though the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami killed more people, the earthquake left approximately 2.8 million people homeless. Many factors hindered relief efforts: 1. Hundreds of thousands of those left homeless live in villages scattered across steep mountains and remote valleys. 2. Due to landslides in the aftermath of the earthquake and subsequent tremors, many roads were blocked or destroyed, making it

difficult to move supplies or reach injured people quickly. 3. Winter was fast approaching, sparking a race against time to save the lives of millions facing harsh weather without adequate shelter, clothing, food and medicine. 4. As weather conditions deteriorated, heavy rainfall, poor visibility and mudslides often prevented helicopters and trucks from delivering relief supplies. Photographs of earthquake-affected areas in Pakistan are presented.

**3-29/ES**

### **THE THREAT OF GLOBAL POVERTY**

**By Susan E. Rice**

**National Interest, No. 83, Spring 2006, pp. 76-82.**

The author, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, believes that global poverty is not just a humanitarian concern but a threat to U.S. national security. Poverty erodes weak states' capacity to prevent the spread of disease and protect the world's forests and watersheds, creates conditions that are conducive to transnational criminal enterprises and terrorist activity, and enhances tensions that erupt in civil conflict, she explains. Poor countries with limited institutional capacity to control their territory, borders and coastlines provide safe havens and training grounds for terrorist networks; terrorists, in turn, exploit the natural resources and financial institutions of these low-income countries. By some estimates, 25 percent of the foreign terrorists recruited by Al-Qaeda to Iraq came from North and sub-Saharan Africa. Most important, Rice states, poverty undercuts U.S. security by inflicting major damage through new drug-resistant strains of microbial pathogens that have spread to the U. S. from developing countries, as more Americans travel to these areas.

**3-30/ES**

### **TWO CHEERS FOR EXPENSIVE OIL**

**By Leonardo Maugeri**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 2, March 2006, pp. 149-163.**

Maugeri, economist and oil industry analyst, says the current "oil crisis" is driven by reduced availability of crude on the world market and the inadequacy of the oil industry's refining capacity. Years of low prices, inadequate investment in infrastructure, and producer's fears of surpluses created this situation, he explains -- and it has recently been exacerbated by an unexpected jump in the global consumption of crude. Despite all the doomsday predictions of oil shortages, he asserts the world still possesses immense oil resources. New technologies are already enabling greater exploitation of existing oil reserves, he says, and vast territories of oil-rich lands have never even been explored. Refining has been the weak link in the oil production chain for 20 years, he states, and since only 20 percent of crude oil falls into the light or low-sulfur categories, failure to



develop refining capacity for lesser-grade crude produced shortfalls of the finished product. Ideally, says Maugeri, oil prices will stay high long enough to achieve necessary investment in exploration, production and refining capacity; to encourage greater development of alternative energy technologies; and to reduce irresponsible energy consumption.

**3-31/ES**  
**IN WORLD BANK CORRUPTION FIGHT,**  
**INDEPENDENT EVALUATION IS KEY**  
**CGD Notes, April 2006, 2p.**

Levine, Director of Programs at the Center for Global Development, says World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz has set out his plans for fighting corruption in the developing world. She says his anti-corruption crusade is both positive and ambitious. However, she asks, how will we know whether the anti-corruption programs actually work? Evaluation should be emphasized from the start, she asserts; development agencies have consistently failed to measure the impact of their aid programs. Levine states that donor and recipient countries should request and fund careful, credible and independent third-party evaluation of World Bank and other agencies' programs. Only through evaluation, she explains, can we document a program's impact on transparency and development.

**GLOBAL ISSUES & COMMUNICATION**

**3-32/GIC**  
**THIS LEAKY WORLD**  
**By William Powers**  
**National Journal, Vol. 38, No. 18, May 6, 2006, p. 60.**

Powers, a National Journal columnist, describes how democracies in various parts of the world are dealing with questions about anonymous sources, the law, and the press. While Americans tend to see the problem as peculiar to the U.S., he points out that Australia has recently enacted anti-terrorism legislation that some observers see as already having a "chilling effect on the news." In Mexico, the government has passed a law which allows journalists to protect their sources because of the danger from drug cartels and gangs. A recent court case in Japan allowed some journalists to protect their sources. Powers concludes, "Freedom of the press is a delicate dance, a never-ending series of judgment calls. The more tightly a society ... tries to define that freedom, the harder it becomes for journalists to do their jobs."

**3-33/GIC**  
**CAN ORGANIC FARMING FEED US ALL?**  
**By Brian Halweil**  
**WorldWatch, Vol. 19, No. 3, May/June 2006,**  
**pp. 18-24.**

For years, agricultural experts have argued that a widespread conversion to organic farming would result in lower crop yields and exacerbate the poverty of farmers in Third World countries. But, as Halweil proposes in this article, previous studies may have been based on faulty assumptions. Moreover, improved techniques that track world food production data indicate the economic viability of growing food without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Halweil describes the results and potential applications of studies conducted by scientists from the University of Michigan, who compared worldwide productivity of organic and non-organic farms. The article also notes the social benefits organic farming can generate by shifting the balance toward smaller, undercapitalized farms and stabilizing rural labor forces, while decreasing water pollution and soil erosion. Consumer demand for organic products continues to increase, but the author cautions that fundamental changes have to take place in the world food supply and distribution system, which at this time favors large agribusinesses and heavy chemical inputs, before organic farming can fulfill its potential.

**3-34/GIC**  
**LIFE LESSONS: How Soap Operas Can Change the**  
**World**  
**By Hannah Rosin**  
**New Yorker, Vol. 82, No. 16, June 5, 2006, pp. 40-45.**

Drama serials, originating in the 1950s in the United States as long-running daytime "soap operas," have proven to be the most enduring and popular form of television programming. Now known worldwide as telenovelas, these TV and radio programs are being transformed in many countries as vehicles to teach literacy, combat AIDS, fight domestic abuse, and encourage civic participation. The article describes how New York-based Population Communications International works with the United Nations and USAID, as well as grassroots community groups and social workers, to develop scripts that reflect the cultures and traditions of their audiences in poor countries while transmitting messages of empowerment.

## U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

**3-35/SV**

### **AMERICAN PIE**

**By Hanna Miller**

**American Heritage, Vol. 57, No. 2, April/May 2006, pp. 30-38.**

Pizza has become "the most successful immigrant of all" to the U.S., notes the author. Although it arrived in the U.S. relatively late compared with long-standing favorites such as the hamburger and hot dog, pizza "has secured a special place on the American table." Pizza first came across the Atlantic with the millions of Italian immigrants in the 1920s, and while there were regional variations, it soon coalesced into a version of the traditional Neapolitan pie. Pizza boomed in popularity after World War II, as Americans sought quick and easy food; the article chronicles the growth of the modern pizza industry. Notes the author, "pizza, like teenagedom and rock 'n' roll, is a lasting relic of America's mid-century embrace of good times."

**3-36/SV**

### **FIREFIGHTERS**

**By Terry Golway**

**American Heritage, Vol. 56, No. 6, November/December 2005, pp. 36-49.**

Golway traces the four-hundred-year-old tradition of firefighting in America, beginning in the seventeenth century when all able-bodied males were obliged to fight fires. In the eighteenth century, growing cities formed volunteer fire departments, which gave way to paid, professional ones a century later. While not overlooking the controversies that have surrounded this overwhelmingly male and largely white profession, Golway focuses on the traditions and heroism that have marked firefighters throughout history. "September 11 was unprecedented, but a 1740s fireman would have recognized the selflessness shown that day," he asserts. Sidebars show some of the milestones in the history of fire-extinction technology and explain why Hollywood always gets it wrong.

## DOCUMENTS

**3-37/DOC**

### **AFGHANISTAN AND ITS NEIGHBORS: An Ever Dangerous Neighborhood**

**By Marvin G. Weinbaum**

**United States Institute of Peace (USIP), June 2006.**

[http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr162\\_afghanistan.html](http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr162_afghanistan.html)

Landlocked and resource poor, Afghanistan is at risk of unwelcome external influences, its sovereignty and traditions vulnerable. The competition among external powers has at times enabled the country to enjoy their beneficence. More often, it has suffered at their hands. For more than a century, Afghanistan served as the classic buffer state between the British and Czarist empires. During the Cold War it was first neutral ground and then contested terrain between Soviet and surrogate American power. Under the yoke of the Soviet Union's occupation during the 1980s, at least one-third of the population went into exile and most of the contested countryside lay in waste. The state itself suffered near disintegration in a following decade of civil war sponsored in part by regional powers. By the late 1990s, Afghanistan hosted the opening salvos in a war between radical Islamists and their designated, mostly Western enemies. A post-Taliban Afghanistan, still not free from conflict, extracts benefits for its recovery from international patrons and hopes for the forbearance of traditionally predatory regional states.

**3-38/DOC**

### **GIVING: U.S. Philanthropy**

**eJournal USA, Vol. 11, No. 1, May 2006.**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0506/ijse/ijse0506.htm>

This issue of *eJournal USA* discusses the history, variety, and some key examples of this aspect of U.S. society, helping describe a phenomenon that is viewed proudly by Americans as an important societal strength that gives citizens connection to and control over programs that might otherwise be handled by government. The examples presented in this journal are illustrative of the types of giving going on in the United States, but for each group, corporation, or program mentioned, there are thousands of others we could have been featured. A list of U.S. foundations and major benefactors reads like a "Who's Who" of American history, society, and industry. Leaders in the fields of business and industry, entertainment, and sports use their fame and their personal wealth to create and underwrite projects throughout the world.

**3-39/DOC**

### **EXPLOITATION OF TRAFFICKED WOMEN**

**By Graeme R. Newman**

**United States Department of Justice. Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, February 2006.**

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=1699>

The guide begins by describing the problem of exploiting women who have been trafficked into the United States, and the aspects of human trafficking that contribute to it.

The guide's focus is on the final period in the process of trafficking at which women are further exploited by those into whose hands they are passed. This is the point at which human trafficking becomes a problem for local police and so the guide identifies a series of questions that can help analyze local problems related to trafficking. Finally, it reviews responses to the exploitation of trafficked women and examines what is known about the effectiveness of these responses from research and police practice.

### **3-40/DOC**

#### **THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**United States National Security Council, March 2006.**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/2006/nss2006.pdf>

The President's National Security Strategy (NSS) explains the strategic underpinning of the administration's foreign policy. In remarks about the President's second-term NSS, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley said: "America's policy -- and its purpose -- is to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world"

### **3-41/DOC**

#### **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2006:**

**International Best Practices**

**Released by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, June 2006.**

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006>

The Department of State is required by law to submit a Report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. This Report is the sixth annual TIP Report. It is intended to raise global awareness, to highlight the growing efforts of the international community to combat human trafficking, and to encourage foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons. The Report has increasingly focused the efforts of a growing community of nations on sharing information and partnering in new and important ways. A country that fails to make significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons, per U.S. law, receives a "Tier 3" assessment in this Report. Such an assessment could trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the United States to that country.

### **3-42/DOC**

#### **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS (1900 - 2001)**

**eJournal USA, Vol. 11, No. 1, April 2006.**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0406/ijpe/ijpe0406.htm>

Focusing on a number of seminal world events, this issue of *eJournal USA* offers a framework for examining how U.S. foreign relations have evolved over the past century, influenced by the legacy of America's founding ideals of protecting individual rights and freedom. Like other countries operating on the global stage, the United States has both played an active role in and been acted upon by international events—and occasionally forced into a role not of its own choosing. One enduring political dynamic for the United States, as for most nations, is the desire to live in a free society, secure and at peace, and working in harmony with allies and trading partners toward prosperity. But America also comes to foreign policy with a unique blend of idealism and realism that combines generosity with self-interest, follows defensive wars with economic recovery programs, builds institutions that are then turned over to others, and seeks to help others find their own way toward democracy.

### **3-43/DOC**

#### **WINNERS AND LOSERS: Impact of the Doha Round on Developing Countries**

**By Sandra Polaski**

**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP), Web-posted, March 2006.**

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/BWfinal.pdf>

This report by CEIP's Trade, Equity, and Development Project presents a new model of global trade to analyze the potential impacts of the WTO Doha Round negotiations and the underlying economic interests of the WTO's diverse members. The model makes several critical innovations --notably, modeling unemployment in developing countries, and separating agricultural labor markets from urban unskilled labor markets. The result is a detailed analysis of the impact of trade policies on both developing and developed countries. The author concludes that it is important not to overstate the possible gains from the Doha Round. The model suggests that "trade is one factor among many that can contribute to economic growth and rising incomes, but its contribution is likely to be very modest." The report offers recommendations meant to address the interests and problems of the developing world in the Doha Round.